



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

September 14, 2004

News Release

ICE AGENTS, OFFICERS HAVE ARRESTED 244 HOUSTON-AREA SEXUAL PREDATORS SINCE MARCH 2003

HOUSTON-- U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) special agents and detention and removal officers have apprehended 244 foreign-born sex offenders in Houston and its surrounding communities since March 2003.

Of those, 207 have already been removed from the United States.

These arrests involve foreign-born criminal aliens who have been convicted of crimes ranging from indecency with a child to aggravated sexual assault of a child, and sodomy. The crimes that these criminal aliens have committed make the eligible for removal from the United States.

"Our arrests over the last 18 months show that our commitment to our communities is our top priority," said Joseph Webber, ICE Houston special agent-in-charge. "These crimes rob our children of their innocence and their sense of security. We will continue to pursue the criminals who threaten the safety of our children."

"Removing these child predators from the United States is our ultimate goal," said Charles Arendale, the field office director for ICE's Detention and Removal Office here. "However, until their removal is completed we ensure that these criminals are detained."

Operation Predator is a national initiative designed to protect our children and our neighbors from being victimized by pornographers, prostitution rings, Internet predators, alien smugglers, human traffickers and other predators.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). ICE seeks to prevent acts of terrorism by targeting the people, money and materials that support terror and criminal networks.